

REMARKS

The undersigned gratefully acknowledges the courtesies extended by the Examiner during the personal interview of May 5 and the telephonic interview conducted on May 24, 2004, confirming the allowability of claim 2, with minor corrections to address the Section 112 rejections.

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated December 29, 2003, and supplemental to the Amendment filed April 29, 2004, and the Advisory Action dated May 10, 2004, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 12 and 19-22 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 2, and further amended to obviate §112 rejections without narrowing the claim scope. Claim 17 has been cancelled to expedite allowance of the case. Withdrawn claims 6-11 and 13-16 have been cancelled.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that claims 1, 4, 5, 12 and 19-22 are in condition for allowance. Therefore it is respectfully requested that the subject application be passed to issue at the earliest possible time. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary.

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/337,667

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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